

***Amendments to the Claims***

1-23. (canceled)

24. (original) An authentication method for determining whether to provide communication services to each of a plurality of wireless terminals, comprising:

transmitting respectively to each of said terminals a unique signalling channel assignment signal, that indicates to that terminal a duplex signalling channel uniquely assigned to that terminal;

transmitting to each of said terminals in said respective signalling channel a respective authentication request signal;

receiving from each of said terminals in said respective signalling channel a respective authentication response signal, the contents of which are dependent on the contents of the authentication request signal; and

determining whether to provide subsequent communication services to each of said terminals according to the contents of the authentication response signal received from that terminal.

25. (original) A method as claimed in claim 24, further including:

receiving, on a contention-based access channel, registration request signals from said wireless terminals;

wherein each of said unique signalling channel assignment signals is transmitted to a respective one of said terminals in response to said registration request signal from that terminal.

26. (original) A method of authentication for a wireless communications terminal, comprising:

receiving a signalling channel assignment signal that indicates a duplex signalling channel uniquely assigned to that terminal;

receiving an authentication request signal on said signalling channel;

generating an authentication response signal on the basis of the content of said authentication request signal and identification information provided at the terminal; and

transmitting said authentication response signal.

27. (original) A method as claimed in claim 26, further including, prior to said step of receiving a channel assignment signal,

transmitting, on a contention-based access channel, a registration request signal.

28. (original) An authentication method for determining whether to provide communication services to each of a plurality of wireless terminals, comprising:

allocating to each of said terminals a respective control signalling channel with a respective Quality of Service which is variable from one said signalling channel to another; and

performing an authentication exchange with each of said terminals on the respective control signalling channels so as to determine whether to provide services to that terminal.

29. (original) A method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising:

allocating to each of said one or more terminals at least one service channel for carrying service communications, wherein the Quality of Service of said at least one service channel is independent of the Quality of Service of the respective control signalling channel.

30-32. (canceled)